

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-22 remain in this application. Claim 2 has been canceled and incorporated into claim 1. Support can also be found at specification page 10, lines 6-7.

The claims have been amended to address the claim objections. Applicant appreciates the suggested amendments.

No new matter is entered by way of these amendments.

Claims 1-6, 8, 11, 14-16, 18, and 19 were rejected as anticipated by LOCKE 2003/0208237.

Claims 7, 13, and 17 were rejected in further view of NOVA 6,334,070.

Claims 9, 10, and 12 were rejected in still further view of OLSEN 5,897,576.

Claims 20-22 were rejected in further view of MILLER 6,397,104.

The references do not individually, or in combination, teach the invention as recited by claim 1.

LOCKE does not disclose a defibrillator device comprising a casing having a carrying handle with a detector means associated with the carrying handle or an adjacent region on the casing, whereby the operational status of the device is changed in use when the handle is grabbed by the operator.

The claimed arrangement has the substantial technical advantage that the operational status of the defibrillator device is changed as soon as the handle is grabbed by the operator. In

most cardiac arrest situations, the defibrillator device will need to be carried to the patient from a storage location and so, by providing a detector associated with the carrying handle of the device, the circuitry within the device can be activated vital minutes before arrival at the location of the patient. This occurs before the operator, who may have little or no prior training, has to work out how to use the device in a highly stressful situation. As indicated in the patent specification, any time lost while the operator activates and sets up the AED, considerably reduces the chances of survival of the patient.

Turning to the cited prior art, LOCKE discloses an automatic external defibrillator (AED) which has a housing with a lid which when closed covers at least a portion of the user interface. A dual function on/off button is configured so that, when an operator presses the button, it causes a switch to close to activate the device and further unlatches the lid to open it. There is no disclosure in LOCKE of providing a detector means associated with the carrying handle of the device. Furthermore, because the main priority of LOCKE is to ensure that the circuit is activated as soon as the lid opens, it would be counter-intuitive to dissociate the activation switch from the lid/opening button. Accordingly, claim 1 as amended is both novel and non-obvious.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive and to put the case in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment, and an early and favorable action on the merits, are earnestly requested. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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